

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1523

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY GR TU

SUBJECT: BITSIOS AND ESENBEL MEETING ON AEGEAN

1. IN MY MEETING SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS, I ASKED HIM WHAT HIS CURRENT THINKING WAS ABOUT MEETING WITH TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER ESENBEL TO DISCUSS THE AEGEAN PROBLEMS AND THE SUBMISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AT THE HAGUE. BITSIOS SAID HE AND ESENBEL HAD EARLIER AGREED THAT A GREAT DEAL OF PREPARATION WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THEIR BILATERAL MEETING AND HAD DECIDED TO CONSULT AGAIN IN EARLY MARCH WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING THE MEETING TIME AND PLACE FOR SOME TIME DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH. HOWEVER BITSIOS SAID, IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS, HE HAD TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED ANY PLANS OR PREPARATIONS FOR THIS GET-TOGETHER WITH ESENBEL. HE INDICATED THAT ONCE THE MODALITIES WERE AGREED AND THERE WERE RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM HE WOULD RECONSIDER THE AEGEAN SITUATION AND AFTER CONSULTING WITH CARAMANLIS WOULD DECIDE WHETHER AND WHEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO GO AHEAD WITH HIS BILATERAL MEETING WITH ESENBEL.

KUBISCH

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